[1980 ஜூன் 26

8. நிலக்கடலை, எள், ஆமணக்கு, பருத்தி, கரும்பு, வெல்லம், மிளகாய், மஞ்சள், நெல், கம்பு, சோளம், கேழ்வரகு ஆகியவற்றினைப் பொருத்த மட்டில் சேலம், ஆத்தூர், நாமக்கல், திருச்செங்கோடு, ராசிபுரம், கொங்கனாபுரம், கொளத்தூர் ஆகிய இடங்களிலுள்ள அங்காடிகள் மற்றும் இவ்வங்காடிப் பகுதியினை சுற்றியுள்ள 16 கி.மீ. பகுதிகளை அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட பகுதியாக அறிவிக்கைச் செய்வது குறித்து வேளாண்மைத் துறையின் 21—12—1974 ஆம் தேதியிடப்பெற்ற 2304-ஆம் எண் அரசாணையில் வெளியான அறிவிப்பு [தமிழ்நாடு 1959 ஆம் ஆண்டு வேளாண் விளைபொருள் அங்காடிச் சட்டத்தின் (தமிழ்நாடு சட்டம் 23/1953) 23 (4) பிரிவின்கீழ் பேரவைமுன் வைக்கப்பெற்றது].

9. தமிழ்நாடு 1940 ஆம் ஆண்டு மோட்டார் வண்டிகள் சட்டத்தில் சில திருத்தங்கள் செய்வது குறித்து உள் துறையின் 4—2—1980 ஆம் தேதியிடப்பெற்ற 285 ஆம் எண் அரசாணையில் அறிவிப்பு [தமிழ்நாடு 1939 ஆம் ஆண்டு மோட்டார் வண்டிகள் சட்டத்தின் (தமிழ்நாடு சட்டம் 4/1939) 133 (3) பிரிவின்கீழ் பேரவைமுன் வைக்கப்பெற்றது].

(ஆ) அறிக்கைகள், அறிவிப்புகள், ஏனைய தாள்கள்—எதுவுமில்லை.

இணைப்பு I

(106 ஆம் பக்கத்திலுள்ள அடிக்குறிப்பைப் பார்க்க)

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

I have immense pleasure in welcoming the Members, who have been returned victorious in the historic General Election, winning the confidence and support of the people.

2. In this test of democracy, the people of Tamil Nadu have given a clear verdict without confusion or fear. I admire their clarity of thought and their demonstration of the understanding of their duties. I express my appreciation for free and peaceful election. This Seventh Assembly of Tamil Nadu is the gift by the people of Tamil Nadu for truth, justice and honesty offered to the whole of India. I am proud to see you all, who have been returned with new vigour, winning the confidence of the people after the Sixth Assembly was dissolved within two and a half-year as a repurcussion of the Parliamentary elections.

3. In electing you, the people have discharged their duties; I have no doubt you will discharge your duties properly. People have placed immense trust in you. I am sure you recognise this fact just as I do.

4. My Government is enthusiastic in implementing the policies of Anna. Everyone can rest assured that my Government, well known for its integrity, will always ensure purity in public life and administration. This Government will continue to follow the two language policy, enunciated by Anna, which has been adopted by this House. Tamil Nadu which has demonstrated its originality in several spheres, has unshakable faith in the unity of the country.

5. This Government is firmly resolved to take every possible step to brighten the life of all the people below the poverty line. 'Food for Work Programme' started with the intention of reducing the ever enlarging unemployment problem will be continued. Many schemes announced by this Government could not be implemented in the interim period. One such scheme, giving relief to the unemployed graduates, will be implemented soon.

6. The food position in the State continues to be satisfactory, largely because of the various measures taken by this Government. The Civil Supplies Corporation has been procuring paddy from the ryots at the rate of Rs. 105 per quintal which is higher than the price fixed by the Government of India. It is proposed to constitute an Agriculturists Welfare Committee at the State level under the presidentship of the Minister for Agriculture. This Committee will include representatives of the agriculturists and experts. This Committee would bring to the notice of the Government, the various problems of the agriculturists and would also offer constructive solutions for the speedy redressal of these problems. Similar Welfare Committees will also be set up at the District level.

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7. My Government is deeply concerned about the debt burden of the farmers, that too of the small farmers. Government is aware of the problems faced by the farmers like rising cost of cultivation and need for fixing reasonable price for the produce. This Government, in consultation with Union Government, will strive hard to find early solutions to these problems. Government is examining vigorously measures to give relief to small farmers. It is the endeavour of this Government to evolve suitable credit policy which will eliminate the emergence of similar crisis in future, in addition to rendering relief presently. State Government can implement these measures, involving large financial outlays, only with assistance from Centre. I hope Government of India will come forward to sympathetically consider the reasonable request made by the State Government.

8. The Government has drawn up a scheme to enlarge the activities and strengthen the Regulated Markets in order to ensure a fair price for the agricultural produces. This scheme has been forwarded to the Government of India to obtain World Bank aid. It is also necessary to streamline the regulated market committees to enable them to function effectively. Suitable legislation for this purpose would be brought before the House during the current session. Elections would be conducted for the Regulated Markets on the basis of the new legislation.

9. As Honourable Members are aware, a draft legislation to reorganise and streamline the Co-operative Societies was introduced in the last session of the previous Assembly. When this was under the consideration of the Joint Select Committee, the Assembly was dissolved. This Government proposes to re-introduce this legislation during the current session. Elections to the Co-operative Societies would be conducted very soon, on the basis of the new Act.

10. This Government has always believed in friendly negotiations with neighbouring States to solve the various inter-State problems. The Government is hopeful of finding solutions through cordial discussions on the matters like utilisation of surplus electricity or of inter-State waters. This Government will soon take steps to resolve the pending inter-State river waters issues and in particular, the one relating to the Cauvery waters. This Government would endeavour to seek a solution which will not be detrimental to the interests of Tamil Nadu. At this juncture, I make an appeal to Government of India to allow this Government to implement the Electricity-Aluminium barter accord reached with Kerala.

11. The House is aware of the various measures taken by the Government for the development of the Handloom industry which in importance is next only to Agriculture in providing employment. The Government has invested Rs. 5.77 crores in the share capital of the Co-optex in the last three years. The turnover of the Co-optex, which was only Rs. 17 crores in 1975-76, is estimated at Rs. 36 crores during 1979-80. This Government has decided to advance a sum of Rs. 5 crores to the Co-optex to enable it to purchase the stocks accumulated with the primary societies. The Co-operative Spinning Mills in the State had a total spindlage of 2.07 lakhs in 1975 and produced 4,000 bales of yarn per month. As a result of the various measures taken by this Government the spindlage of these Mills has increased

to 3.14 lakhs by the end of 1979 and the monthly production has reached 7,000 bales which meets the yarn requirements of the Co-operative weavers' societies. This Government would continue to take all possible steps to ensure that the weavers get their yarn requirements promptly and at a fair price.

12. Investments in Tamil Nadu by Government of India stood at Rs. 262 crores by the end of 1969 out of the total investment of Rs. 3,463 crores made throughout the country, forming 8 per cent of the total investment. As against this, the investment by Government of India in Tamil Nadu upto 1979 was Rs. 616 crores, working out to only 4 per cent of the total investment of Rs. 15,668 crores made throughout the country. This sharp decline in share of Central investment in Tamil Nadu is perhaps one of the important reasons for the high percentage of people below the poverty line in Tamil Nadu. The large volume of unemployed in Tamil Nadu can also be attributed to the failure of the Government of India to set up major industries in Tamil Nadu and to the delays in clearing the setting up of major industries by the private sector. While the Government of Tamil Nadu is doing its utmost to create employment opportunities in fields coming under its purview like Agriculture, Small-Scale industry, I would request Government of India to increase its investment in Tamil Nadu in order to supplement the measures taken by State Government and also to assist the growth of Small-Scale industries. I hope steps will be taken by Government of India to redress the imbalance in investments quickly.

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13. Members may be aware of the steps taken by this Government to set up new universities at Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli. The University Grants Commission has conveyed its consent for setting up these universities. Suitable legislation for this purpose will be brought before the House and speedy steps will be taken to establish them. I am sure by these steps, there will be upgradation in the standard of higher education and acceleration in various research efforts. A Bill will also be brought before this House to reorganise the administration of universities of Annamalai, Madras and Madurai-Kamaraj. The Government will take steps to set up a University covering all the educational institutions at Karaikudi. I am confident that the Members of this House will welcome the decision of this Government to set up a Tamil University.

14. Government proposes to set up a Centre for Appropriate Technology to develop employment opportunities. This Centre utilising the scientific knowledge available in India and abroad will suggest measures to improve the existing industries, to start new industries and to promote research and adaptation of technology. This Centre will include scientists and technologists. With the aid of this Institution, Government hopes to open new vistas of Industrial development in the State.

15. Government has decided to convert the teachers of panchayat unions as Government servants. Necessary steps are being taken to implement this policy decision of the Government.

16. In this Session, a Bill will be brought before the House to reduce the age for voting to 18 in local body elections as mentioned in my last address. On this basis new list of voters will be prepared and elections to all panchayats, municipalities and the corporation will be held within six months.

17. Members may be aware of the various steps that have been taken by the Government to promote the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Government will prepare and implement a special five-year plan for the welfare of the harijans.

18. In this Joint Session, many legislative measures will be brought before the House for the benefit of the workers in the organised sector. A legislation to provide for many benefits to thousand of workers in the unorganised sector also will be placed for the approval of the House: I am sure the House will extend its utmost co-operation and stand by the Government in these efforts.

19. I have briefly touched a few of the policies of my Government. I am confident that the Honourable Members and the Government whichi s dynamic in the service of ever vigilant public will strive hard to alleviate the distress of the poor and raise the level of living of the downtrodden. This House has established glorious traditions in its own unique way. I am confident you will embellish them further.

20. This is the first session after the elections; let bitter incidents, if any, be forgotten! Let there be more light than heat in your arguments! Let your debates safeguard and sustain Democracy! Let your ability help eradicate poverty! It is my fervent wish that you all must function as beacons of light in the service of the public who have placed immense trust in you. **I wish you all success in your endeavours!**